

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-20 and 22-30 will be pending upon entry of this amendment. Claims 1, 3, 20 and 22 have been amended. Claims 2 and 21 have been canceled without prejudice. New claims 24-30 have been added. No new matter has been added to the application.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

Objections

Claims 2-3, 9-10 and 21-23 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. The Examiner indicated that claims 2-3, 9-10 and 21-23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants thank Examiner Weiskopf for indicating the allowable subject matter of claims 2-3, 9-10 and 21-23.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claim 2. Consequently, claim 1 is believed to be allowable as are claims 3-10, which depend therefrom.

Original claim 9 has been rewritten in independent form as new claim 24. Thus, claim 24 is believed to be allowable as are claims 25-26 which depend therefrom.

Independent claim 20 has been amended to include the features of claim 21. Consequently, claim 20 is believed to be allowable as are claims 22-23, which depend therefrom.

New Claims 24-30

Claims 24-26 are allowable for at least the reasons set forth above.

As suggested by the Examiner, original claims 22 and 23 have been rewritten in independent form as new claims 27 and 29, respectively. Thus, claims 27 and 29 are allowable as are claims 28 and 30, which depend therefrom, respectively.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants further thank Examiner Weiskopf for allowing claims 11-19.

Conclusion

Overall, the cited references do not singly, or in any motivated combination, teach or suggest the claimed features of the embodiments recited in independent claims 1, 11, 20, 24, 27 and 29, and thus such claims are allowable. Because the remaining claims depend from allowable independent claims 1, 11, 20, 24, 27 and 29, and also because they include additional limitations, such claims are likewise allowable. If the undersigned agent has overlooked a relevant teaching in any of the references, the Examiner is requested to point out specifically where such teaching may be found.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are allowable. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider this application and timely allow all pending claims. Examiner Weiskopf is encouraged to contact Mr. Stern by telephone to discuss the above and any other distinctions between the claims and the applied references, if desired. If the Examiner notes any informalities in the claims, he is encouraged to contact Mr. Stern by telephone to expediently correct such informalities.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosure: Information Disclosure Statement

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